

RIDDLE, BECKTILL, AND HEADINGTON.

MARCH 3, 1828.

JANUARY 4, 1832.

Reprinted by order of the House of Representatives.

Mr. RAMSEY, from the Committee of Claims, to which was referred the petition of Riddle, Becktill, and Headington, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee of Claims, to which was referred the claim of Messrs. Riddle, Becktill, and Headington, report:*

That Bartholomew Shaumburg, Deputy Quartermaster General, at New Orleans, did, on the 29th March, 1813, draw a bill on the Government of the United States, in favor of Messrs. Riddle, Becktill, and Headington, for two thousand dollars, at five days' sight; that the said bill of exchange, so drawn, was presented at the War Department, 26th May, 1813, and the Department of War refused payment, and the said bill of exchange was regularly protested on the said 26th May, 1813, for non-payment, as appears by the affidavit of Walter Smith, Notary Public: the bill of exchange was, at a subsequent time, presented, and paid by the Department of War, and, prior to its payment, the said Riddle, Becktill, and Headington, had transferred the said bill to the Miami Exporting Company, which company had returned it to the said Riddle and Co., and the said Riddle and Co. had to pay the Miami Exporting Company \$216 28, as appears by the affidavit of Oliver N. Spencer, cashier of said company. The claim of Riddle and Co. is made out as follows in the affidavit of Henry Becktill. One of the firm of Riddle and Co., states, that the damages and interest paid the Miami Exporting Company is

Interest from May, 1813, twelve years, &c.	-	-	-	-	\$216 28
Postage	-	-	-	-	152 10
	-	-	-	-	1 50

\$369 88

This statement and affidavit was made the 26th November, 1825. It appears by an order of the War Department, dated the 25th March, 1831, that Shaumburg was ordered not to draw for more than \$5,000 per month, until otherwise directed. By a letter of the Third Auditor, of the 10th December, 1825, which is referred to, and made part of this report, it appears that the protest of the said bill was not for want of funds, but in consequence of the order of the War Department before referred to. The committee are aware that the order of the War Department, of the 25th

March, 1813, could not have been known to Shaumburg when he drew the bill of the 29th, same month, at New Orleans. It appears, that all drafts drawn by Shaumburg prior to the one of the 29th March, 1813, to Becktill and Co. had been paid when presented at the War Department. If Shaumburg had notice of the order of the 25th March, 1813, it would have been wrong in him to have drawn beyond the amount allowed by the War Department, but it is evident he could not have had notice of the order; and the subsequent payment of the bill is evidence that the bill was rightly drawn, and that the Department was due the amount so drawn for.

It appears, by the letter of the Third Auditor referred to, that the protest did not accompany the bill at the time it was presented and paid, and that the claimants had to pay the damages, &c.

It appears, from a letter of the War Department, dated 13th June, 1812, directed to B. Shaumburg, Deputy Quartermaster, that the said Shaumburg was allowed to draw on the Department for all necessary expenditures, which letter is referred to, and made part of this report.

And it is also stated, by the Third Auditor, in his letter of the 18th February, 1828, that he had not been able to find any case where the Department has paid endorsers the damages on any other bills than those of contractors.

The committee report a bill for the interest, from the 26th May, 1813, to the 4th September, 1813.